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Preliminary Amendment

23. ~~A fluid according to claim 22, comprising 0.01% to 2% of deacetylated xanthan gum.~~
24. A fluid according to claim 22, wherein the compound increasing the ionic strength of the fluid is a salt of mineral or organic acid.
25. A fluid according to claim 24, wherein the salt is an alkali metal halide, alkaline-earth metal halide, a sulphate, carbonate, bicarbonate, silicate, phosphate, an alkali metal formate, alkaline-earth metal formate, alkali metal acetate, or an alkaline-earth metal acetate.
26. A fluid according to claim 25, wherein the compound increasing the ionic strength of the fluid is an alkali or alkaline-earth metal chloride.
27. A fluid according to claim 25, wherein the compound increasing the ionic strength of the fluid is a sodium silicate.
28. A fluid according to claim 22, wherein the compound increasing the ionic strength of the fluid is present in said fluid in an amount of 5000 to 110000 parts per million.
29. ~~A fluid according to claim 22, wherein the percentage of acetyl groups in the xanthan gum is less than 3%.~~
30. ~~A fluid according to claim 29, wherein the percentage is 0 to 2%.~~
31. ~~A fluid according to claim 22, further comprising a fluid loss control agent in a quantity of 0 to 1% with respect to the total fluid weight.~~
32. ~~A fluid according to claim 31, wherein the fluid loss control agent is selected from the group consisting of cellulose compounds, polyacrylamides, high molecular weight polyacrylates, succinoglycans, native starch, native starch derivatives, and charcoal.~~
33. A fluid according to claim 22, further comprising a thinner or dispersing agent in a quantity of 0 to 1% with respect to the total fluid weight.

34. A fluid according to claim 33, wherein the thinner or dispersing agent is selected from the group consisting of polyphosphates, tannins, lignosulphonates, lignin derivatives, peats, lignites, polyacrylates and polynaphthalene sulphonates.

35. A fluid according to claim 22, further comprising an oxygen scavenger in an amount of 0 to 0.25% with respect to the total fluid weight.

36. A fluid according to claim 22, further comprising a weighting compound selected from the group consisting of alkaline-earth metal sulphates, carbonates, silicates, alkaline-earth metal bromides, zinc bromides, and iron oxides.

37. A fluid according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising at least one mineral colloid selected from the group consisting of attapulgite, barite and bentonite.

38. A fluid according to claim 22, further comprising water.

39. A process for the treatment of a guar-free oil drilling fluid, comprising the step of adding to said fluid a deacetylated xanthan gum in the form of a polypentamer, combined with at least one compound which increases the ionic strength of the fluid.

40. A process according to claim 39, wherein the compound increasing the ionic strength of the fluid is an alkali metal halide, an alkaline-earth metal halide, a sulphate, carbonate, bicarbonate, silicate, phosphate or formate.

41. A process according to claim 39, wherein the compound increasing the ionic strength of the fluid is an alkali halide or an alkaline-earth metal halide.

42. A process according to claim 39, wherein the deacetylated xanthan gum further comprises a fluid loss control agent.

43. A process according to claim 42, wherein the fluid loss control agent is